

Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated January 12, 2006
Serial No. 10/080,982 - Johnston
Art Unit: 3652 - Docket 1266.015
Page 2 of 5

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 21 as follows:

In use, the operator manipulates the controls 42 to maneuver the machine 20 towards the load L (Fig. 2), retracting the cylinders 102, 104, and 114 as necessary to permit the gantry 20 to fit through small relatively narrow doorways and/or relatively narrow paths while it is driven. As the machine 20 approaches the load L, the operator extends the cylinders 102 and 104 and/or the cylinder 114 to alter the length and/or width of the machine 20 as may be required to permit the gantry to straddle the load L. The gantry 20 is then positioned over the load L, and the left and right lift beams 28, 30 are coupled to the load L via suitable rigging [[R]] such as straps, chains, cables, etc. The rear cross beam 32 may also be coupled to the load, if necessary. Next, the cylinders 58 are extended to extend the lift legs 52, 52a of the booms 22, 24, and 26 to lift the load L, and the gantry 20 is driven to the desired location. The cylinders 58 are then retracted to lower the load L, and the rigging [[R]] is uncoupled from the load. The cylinders 102 and 104 and/or 114 are then extended, if required, to provide increased clearance for moving the gantry away from the load L, and the machine 20 is driven away from the load.

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